

Department of Planning & Community Development

[Kara Brewton](#) , Economic Development Director

(617) 730-2468

[Marge Amster](#) , Commercial Areas Coordinator

(617) 730-2130

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Thursday 8:00-5:00

Friday 8:00-12:30

Microenterprise Capital Improvements Assistance Program

The Economic Development Division seeks to encourage appropriate economic growth, foster the prosperity of businesses in the Town's commercial areas, enhance the Town's appearance by promoting design excellence in new development, and preserve and enhance the character of neighborhoods. Major functions include the following:

1. Facilitating appropriate development by working with developers during the complex and lengthy public approval process. Advocating for zoning changes when needed. Preparing guidance materials for developers seeking to navigate the process. Evaluating the efficacy of the development approvals process; and recommending measures to streamline reviews while preserving valuable neighborhood input.

2. Strengthening the Town's commercial areas by sponsoring and supporting a series of public celebrations. Support the local [merchant associations](#) and collaborate with the [Chamber of Commerce](#) to foster a common agenda among store owners, commercial landlords, and neighborhood residents. Promote Brookline to increase tourism. See our listing of [Town Celebrations](#)

3. Develop a Strategic Development Plan by inventorying available sites and collecting key data on specific sites and on development opportunities in Brookline. Understand the regional demand for new development and the unique qualities of Brookline to target market opportunities. Analyze the zoning code as it relates to the Town's ability to encourage appropriate development and create and disseminate information designed to inform the public about economic development.

4. Generate and preserve affordable housing opportunities throughout town.